DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 316 274 JC 900 133

AUTHOR Yaklin, Bernard P.
TITLE Enrollment and Graduation Patterns of Undergraduates Transferring to UC Davis, 1976-1989. Research Synopsis: Student Affairs Research and Information No. 34.
INSTITUTION California Univ., Davis.
PUB DATE Feb 90
NOTE 8p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Academic Achievement; *Articulation (Education); *College Graduates; *College Transfer Students; Community Colleges; *Enrollment Trends; Females; Higher Education; Males; Minority Groups; Transfer Programs; Two Year Colleges; Universities
IDENTIFIERS *California

ABSTRACT

Between fall 1976 and spring 1989, over 21,000 transfer students entered the University of California at Davis (UCD). Transfers included all students who entered the university with sophomore standing, who entered with advanced standing or whose source school was not a high school. Selected data on these students included the following: (1) during the 13-year period, 37% of UC's new undergraduates were transfers, though the proportion of transfers fell from half to less than one-third of the new undergraduates; (2) the proportion of non-white transfers doubled from 14% in 1976-77 to 31% in 1988-89; (3) among new undergraduates, 36% of the women and 39% of the men were transfers; (4) 64% transferred as juniors and about 28% transferred as sophomores between 1976-1989; (5) 62% of all students and 66% of non-white students transferring from fall 1980 through spring 1989 came from community colleges; (6) among transfers who enrolled from fall 1976 through spring 1986, 71% earned degrees; (7) 71% of the students who transferred to UCD between fall 1976 and spring 1986 graduated, and over one-half of non-white transfer students eventually graduated from UCD; and (8) among students transferring as juniors, 76% graduated from UCD, a substantially higher rate than those of freshman (50%) and sophomore (66%) transfers. (JMC)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED316274

ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION PATTERNS OF UNDERGRADUATES TRANSFERRING TO TO UC DAVIS: 1976-1989.

by Bernard P. Yaklin
Administrative Analyst

University of California Davis
Research Synopsis: Student Affairs Research and Information
No. 34 February 1990

JC 900 133

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

B. P. Yaklin

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☒ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

University of California
Davis

RESEARCH SYNOPSIS

Student Affairs
Research and Information

No. 34 February 1990

ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION PATTERNS OF UNDERGRADUATES TRANSFERRING TO UC DAVIS: 1976-1989

INTRODUCTION

The transfer of advanced standing students into the University of California has long been a source of its strength and diversity. The recent review of California's Master Plan for Higher Education reinforces the importance of the transfer function and recommends that the University work cooperatively with the California Community Colleges (CCC) to increase the number and proportion of transfers. The Master Plan also envisions an undergraduate population at UC consisting of 60% upper division students, making junior level transfers especially important to the University.

Educational leaders throughout the state and nation recognize UC Davis as a pioneer in developing programs to attract and assist transfer students. Initiated in 1983 and winner of the national ACT/NACADA Outstanding Institutional Advising Program Award (1989), Davis' Transfer Opportunity Program (TOP) now operates at 21 community colleges. TOP served as a model for the statewide system of community college transfer centers. In 1987 UC Davis became the first UC campus to contract with individual CCC students for guaranteed admission upon completion of a mutually agreed upon set of courses; guaranteed transfer agreements now exist with 42 community colleges.

Transfer students help diversify the undergraduate student body. They bring with them knowledge and differing perspectives gained from studying at other institutions. Students transfer from a variety of California schools and from colleges within and outside the United States; they enter with credits earned at both public and private colleges of all types, ranging from two-year programs to major research institutions. Most transfers continue at UC Davis to earn a baccalaureate degree.

HIGHLIGHTS

This report describes transfers entering from Fall 1976 through Spring 1989. As defined herein, transfers include all students who enter UC Davis with sophomore standing (more than 40 transfer units), who are coded by Undergraduate Admissions as advanced standing, or whose source school is not a high school.

- A large proportion (37%) of new undergraduates are transfers—over 21,000.
- Almost 2,300 SAA students (American Indian, Black/African American, Chicano/Mexican American and Latino/Other Spanish American) transferred—34% of all new SAA undergraduates.
- Among new undergraduates, 36% of women and 39% of men are transfers.
- 62% of all students (and 66% of SAA students) transferring from Fall 1980 through Spring 1989 came from community colleges.
- Among transfers who enrolled from Fall 1976 through Spring 1986, 11,900 (71%) earned degrees.

TRANSFERS AS A PROPORTION OF ALL NEW UNDERGRADUATES

Both the number of students transferring to UC Davis and the proportion of new undergraduates who are transfers declined over the period 1976-1989. As Display 1 shows, transfers fell from half to less than one-third of new undergraduates. The proportion of new non-White students (i.e., those identifying themselves as belonging to ethnic groups other than White or Other) who are transfers declined in a similar fashion, from 46% in 1976-77 to 26% in 1988-89.

DISPLAY 1
New Undergraduates Transferring to UC Davis
1976-77 through 1988-89

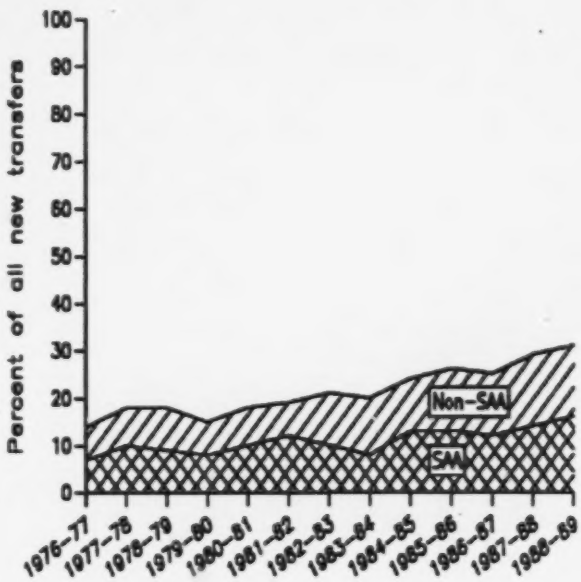
Year	Number	Percent of all new undergraduates
1976–77	2,283	51
1977–78	1,894	46
1978–79	1,914	44
1979–80	1,862	40
1980–81	1,741	38
1981–82	1,404	34
1982–83	1,405	38
1983–84	1,393	38
1984–85	1,515	33
1985–86	1,463	35
1986–87	1,447	37
1987–88	1,275	27
1988–89	1,625	32

ETHNIC BACKGROUND

The proportion of transfers who are non-White doubled since 1976-77, from 14% to 31% (see Display 2). From 1976-77 through 1988-89, non-White transfers increased by 55% (320 to 497) while White and Other (unspecified ethnicity) transfers decreased by 43% (1,963 to 1,128). Although differences vary from year to year, SAA transfers slightly outnumber other non-White transfers (i.e., Asians, Filipinos and East Indians); for example, 266 new SAA transfers entered UC Davis in 1988-89 along with 231 other non-White transfers.

Changes in enrollment for individual ethnic groups reflect the increasing diversity of the undergraduate population. The number of Other Asian transfers, a category that includes Southeast Asians, rose steadily, growing six-fold to 87 since 1976-77 while Filipino transfers quadrupled to 41. Both Latino and African American transfers increased at above-average rates in 1988-89, rising to 103 and 58 respectively, the highest numbers to date for each group.

DISPLAY 2
Non-White Undergraduates Transferring
1976-77 through 1988-89



CLASS LEVEL OF TRANSFER STUDENTS

Most students transfer as juniors, the level at which the Master Plan envisions most transfers would enter the University. Following declines in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the proportion of junior transfers has increased to 64% (see Display 3). Changes in the numbers of junior transfers loosely reflect up and down changes in total new transfer enrollments. Over the period covered by this report, about 28% of transfers entered as sophomores; however, that proportion recently declined to just 25% in 1988-89. Only about 9% of new transfers enter as freshmen.

DISPLAY 3
Undergraduates Transferring as Juniors
1976-77 through 1988-89

Year	Number	Percent of all new transfers
1976–77	1,459	64
1977–78	1,165	62
1978–79	1,108	58
1979–80	968	52
1980–81	894	51
1981–82	759	54
1982–83	816	58
1983–84	795	57
1984–85	869	57
1985–86	844	58
1986–87	863	60
1987–88	817	64
1988–89	1,038	64

WHERE DO TRANSFERS COME FROM?

The number and proportion of transfers coming from community colleges increased sharply in 1987-88 and 1988-89 following relative stability since 1980-81, the first year reliable source school data are available (see Display 4). In 1988-89 three-quarters of all transfers originated in community colleges. These 1,222 CCC transfers make up 24% of all new undergraduates, the highest number and proportion to date.

Changes in the proportion of SAA transfers who originate in community colleges parallel changes for all CCC transfers; 76% of SAA transfers came from community colleges in 1988-89. Although a causal relation cannot be clearly determined, these increases coincide with development and expansion of campus programs to encourage and assist CCC transfers.

Transfers from other institutions decreased both relatively and absolutely from 1980-81 forward. In 1988-89, 113 transfers came from within the University of California, 93 from California State University (CSU) campuses, and 194 from other schools; these 400 students make up 25% of transfers, down from 41% in 1980-81.

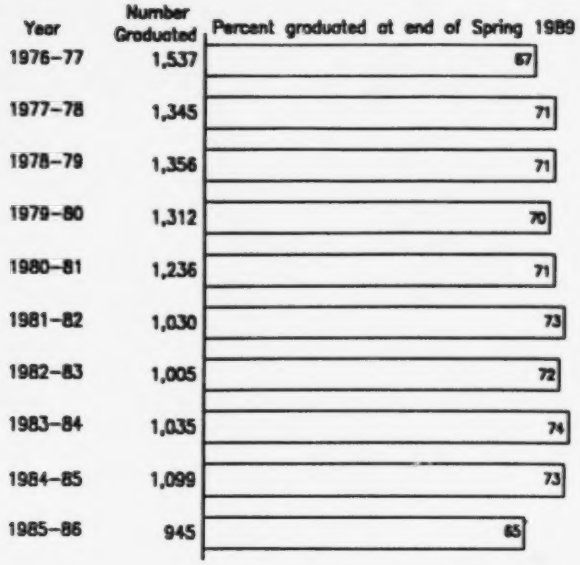
DISPLAY 4
Undergraduate Transfers from Community College
1980-81 through 1988-89

Year	Number	Percent of all new transfers
1980–81	933	54
1981–82	828	59
1982–83	844	60
1983–84	861	62
1984–85	959	63
1985–86	894	61
1986–87	872	60
1987–88	867	68
1988–89	1,222	75

GRADUATION RATES OF TRANSFERS

Almost three-quarters of the students who transfer earn baccalaureate degrees at UC Davis; 11,900 (71%) of the 16,874 students who transferred to the campus between Fall 1976 and Spring 1986 graduated. As Display 5 shows, graduation rates vary only slightly from cohort to cohort. A substantial proportion of transfers entering after Spring 1985 were still enrolled in Spring 1989 and most will likely graduate in the near future.

DISPLAY 5
Graduation Rates of Undergraduate Transfers
by Entering Class: 1976-77 through 1985-86



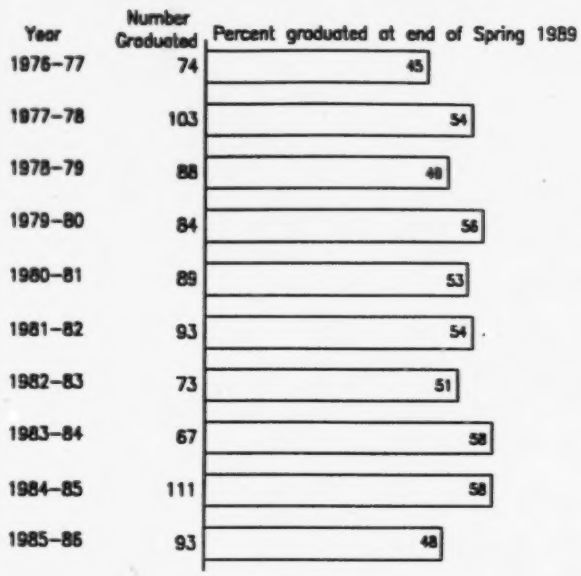
GRADUATION RATES OF SAA & OTHER NON-WHITE TRANSFERS

Over half of SAA transfer students eventually graduate from UC Davis. Graduation rates for SAA transfers have improved for recent entrants, reaching 58% for 1983-84 and 1984-85 cohorts (see Display 6).

Asian, Filipino and East Indian transfers usually graduate at rates at or above those for all transfer students; 1,153 (74%) of these students who transferred from 1976-77 through 1985-86 graduated by the end of Spring 1989.

As a comparison of Displays 5 and 6 reveals, graduation rates for SAA transfers consistently lag behind rates for all transfers, with differences ranging from 14-22%. *The Report of the UC Davis Task Force on Retention and Transfer* (1980) notes a similar pattern and explains the differences as "related to transfer GPAs." *Persistence and Graduation of UC Davis Undergraduates Admitted by Special Action: 1975-1985* (May 1987) offers another indicator of the role academic preparation may play in SAA graduation rates. That report notes the disproportionately large number of SAA students entering as freshmen and sophomores who are admitted by special action. The lower graduation rates suggest a need for the campus to work closely with SAA students prior to entrance to ensure that underprepared students receive adequate course preparation and remedial work.

DISPLAY 6
Graduation Rates of SAA Undergraduate Transfers
by Entering Class: 1976-77 through 1985-86

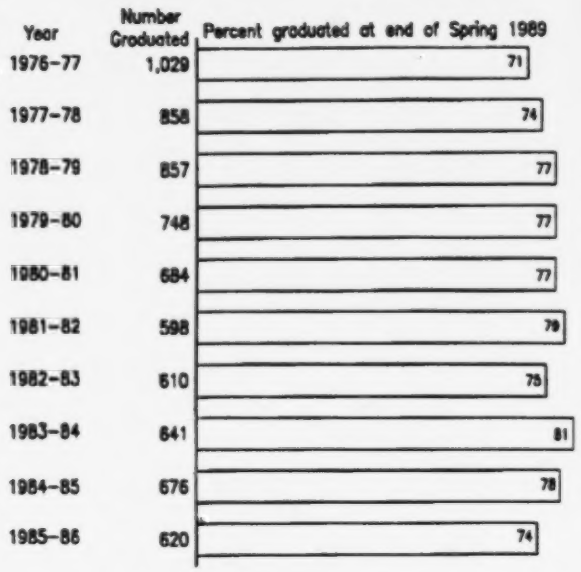


GRADUATION RATES BY LEVEL

Among students transferring as juniors, 76% graduate from UC Davis. Junior level graduation rates vary over time, reaching a peak of 81% for the 1983-84 group (see Display 7). Junior transfers graduate at substantially higher rates than freshman (50%) and sophomore (66%) transfers. These transfers have greater investment in their education and are likely to be more mature than students transferring as freshmen and sophomores.

Native students (those admitted with less than 12.5 transfer units) who persist 10 or more quarters (to approximately junior level) are even more likely to graduate. As reported in *Graduation Rates of UC Davis Undergraduates--Domestic Students Entering 1973-1982* (January 1989), these students graduate at rates substantially above those of junior transfers.

DISPLAY 7
Graduation Rates of SAA Undergraduates
Transferring to UC Davis as Juniors
by Entering Class: 1976-77 through 1985-86



GRADUATION RATES BY SOURCE SCHOOL

The type of school attended before transferring to UC Davis does not appear to influence whether students graduate. Examined by source school, graduation rates fluctuate relative to each other but differ little over long periods of time (see Table 1). Among transfers entering between 1980-81 and 1985-86, the following percentages had graduated by Spring 1989: 73% transferring from UC campuses, 72% from CSU or CCC campuses and 69% from other schools.

TABLE 1
Graduation Rates of Undergraduate Transfers
by Source School and Entering Class:
1976-77 through 1985-86

Entry Year	Source School UC	CSU	CCC	Other
1980-81	68%*	71%	71%	70%
1981-82	75	71	74	76
1982-83	73	76	71	72
1983-84	78	73	75	69
*1984-85	81	73	73	68
*1985-86	67	67	66	57

* Percents of transfers who graduated by Spring 1989.
* Many students transferring after Spring 1984 are still enrolled and will graduate later.

TIME TO DEGREE

Transfers, similiar to all undergraduates, take increasingly more time to complete degrees at UC Davis. Time to degree increased for tranfers at all entry levels, freshmen through seniors. Among graduates from the 1984-85 transfer cohort, 21% took more than 9 quarters to earn degrees, compared with 15% of the degree-earning students who transferred in 1976-77. This increase should be of concern to both students and the campus. The longer students take to earn degrees, the greater the personal and institutional resources expended to achieve that goal.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Although UC Davis continues to develop programs and policies to enroll more transfer students, their ultimate success depends, in part, upon reductions in external pressures. Currently, the University of California faces both increasing numbers of high school applicants and an insufficient number of spaces for all eligible students within the system.

Despite these obstacles, the campus can probably further increase SAA transfer enrollment. In 1988-89, only 17% of CCC transfers to UC Davis were SAA students. Yet two years before, 26% of the public high school graduates entering community colleges were SAA (*California College Going Rates, Fall 1988 Update*, CPEC, September 1989), thus indicating the existence of a greater potential transfer population.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Unless otherwise noted, data presented here come from the Composite Undergraduate File (CUF), a longitudinal data base of undergraduates enrolled at UC Davis since 1966 and updated from Student Record System files through Spring 1989. Data presented here may differ from those reported in *Enrollment and Graduation of Undergraduates Transferring to UC Davis: 1974-1986* (May 1987) because of minor corrections to the data base and because some students have since graduated or left. Data presented in this report include entire academic year periods rather than only Fall quarter enrollments because about 30% of transfers first enroll in Winter or Spring quarters.

Although this report seeks to present the most pertinent information about transfer students, it necessarily excludes much detail. Readers who want more information about tranfers should contact:

Student Affairs Research and Information
UC Davis
Davis, California 95616
(916) 752-2000

TO:

ERIC Clearinghouse for
Junior Colleges MAR 29 1990